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Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2000 (2011) of 27 July 2011, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 31 July 2012 and requested that I provide a final report on the situation on the ground and the implementation of the resolution no later than 30 June 2012. The report covers major developments since my special report of 29 March 2012 (S/2012/186) and outlines activities undertaken by the Mission to implement its mandate under resolution 2000 (2011).

II. Security situation

2. The already volatile security situation in western Côte d'Ivoire along the border with Liberia experienced a dramatic deterioration with a direct attack on UNOCI peacekeepers on 8 June 2012, during which seven military personnel from Niger were killed. In response to reports of an attack on civilians in the village of Sao the night of 7 June, UNOCI deployed a patrol, which came under fire by a significant number of unidentified armed elements on the road from Para to Sao along the border with Liberia, killing the seven peacekeepers. A separate but related attack on a Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) unit, which had already reached Sao, resulted in the death of one FRCI member and the wounding of another. On the same day, at least 15 civilians were killed by unidentified armed men in the area. These attacks, the heightened insecurity and the presence of armed elements triggered the displacement of about 5,000 persons, with some reportedly crossing the border into Liberia. Although access remained difficult, humanitarian actors in western Côte d'Ivoire coordinated the humanitarian response, including the provision of emergency assistance.

3. After the attack on the peacekeepers, the remaining members of the UNOCI patrol returned to the town of Para and held their position in order to protect civilians. They were reinforced by UNOCI troops from Tabou and Taï on 8 and 9 June. UNOCI also reinforced its presence in Taï with troops from Guiglo and formed police unit personnel from Yamoussoukro, while the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) increased air reconnaissance and joint patrols with Liberian security agencies. Following emergency meetings in Abidjan and Monrovia,

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respectively, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia reinforced the presence of their security forces along both sides of the border. Côte d'Ivoire increased the number of FRCI troops in the area, while Liberia deployed additional national police and immigration personnel in the border counties and began the advance deployment of a company of the Armed Forces of Liberia. Liberia also temporarily closed the border, except for humanitarian activities, and took steps to curb illegal mining activities in the border area given the suspected association of former combatants with illegal mining activities. On 9 June, Ivorian authorities arrested four individuals in connection with the attack, and transferred them to Abidjan on 11 June.

4. During the night of 11 June, a group of unidentified armed individuals attacked the villages of Sieblo-Oula and Tielole-Oula in the area of Taï, killing four civilians and wounding many more, while three others were abducted. The attack led to the displacement of hundreds of people. Confrontations between FRCI and armed elements were reported in the area on 13 June, during which 17 armed elements were killed.

5. In an effort to coordinate the overall response, UNOCI and UNMIL met in Abidjan on 12 June to prepare for a quadripartite meeting with the Ivorian and Liberian authorities, which was held in Abidjan on 14 June. The parties agreed to further reinforce cooperation and take measures to address the fragile situation along the border in the light of the recent attacks, including reinforcement of their presence on both sides of the border, intensified air and foot patrols and activities to protect civilians, while taking steps to strengthen relations between their respective security forces and the population. Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia also agreed to strengthen judicial cooperation, particularly with regard to judicial procedures against Ivorians in Liberia who allegedly participated in crimes during the post-elections crisis, while respecting the rights of refugees. There was also an agreement to hold a joint meeting of the councils of chiefs and elders of communities residing along the border to promote reconciliation and development and to convene a meeting of the Ivorian-Liberian Joint Commission of Cooperation before the end of the year.

6. In addition to the incidents that took place in June, prior attacks on villages on the Côte d'Ivoire side of the border were reported. The most serious incident occurred on 25 April, when a group of armed individuals attacked the town of Sakré near Taï, killing eight civilians and burning a dozen houses. The incident prompted some 5,900 people to flee their homes. There are indications that the attack was carried out by a group of former combatants from both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia who had entered into Côte d'Ivoire from Liberia. There were also reports of rearming and recruitment of former Ivorian and Liberian combatants in Liberia for possible large-scale attacks in Côte d'Ivoire, possibly with the support of elements affiliated with the regime of former President Laurent Gbagbo, currently residing outside the country. If confirmed, this would be a serious threat to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

7. A number of confrontations between FRCI elements and local populations were also reported during the period under review, highlighting persisting tensions between FRCI and parts of the population. Such incidents were reported on 21 April in Dimbé, on 22 April in Akouédo, on 25 April in Abidjan, on 13 May in Bangolo and on 4 June in Kohodio and Guitry villages, resulting in seven persons being

killed and at least 21 injured. These incidents often occurred when FRCI responded to incidents, which provoked violent reactions by the local populations. On 24 May, one person was killed when dozos (traditional hunters) clashed with civilians in Ouragahio in the west. Meanwhile, dozos reportedly continued to exercise security responsibilities in the west.

8. Violent intercommunal confrontations continued to take place, mostly in western and central Côte d'Ivoire, often revolving around land tenure issues. Incidents were reported on 3 April in Arrah, on 11 April in Djegounoua and Latané-Akanssakro near Bouaké, on 21 April in Ahizabre, on 11 May near Abengourou and on 18 May near Bloléquin, resulting in one person being killed and 12 injured. On 7 June, unidentified armed elements targeted a community perceived to be aligned with President Ouattara in Guitrozon near Duékoué, killing two civilians, wounding three and raping at least one woman.

9. In addition, armed robberies by unidentified elements resulted in a number of civilian deaths and injuries, mainly in Abidjan and in the west. During the period under review, at least 188 armed robberies occurred across the country, leading to the deaths of 54 persons and injuring many more. The national security agencies responded to many of these incidents. At least 15 suspected perpetrators were killed and a number of bystanders injured as a result of the exchanges of gunfire between security forces and armed individuals.

10. The period under review also witnessed a number of prison outbreaks in which a total of 196 detainees escaped, including 45 from the Korhogo prison on 21 April, 99 from the Agboville prison on 1 May and 52 from the Maison d'arrêt et de correction d'Abidjan, the main prison in the capital, on 4 May. In response, the Government dismissed the heads of the Abidjan and Agboville prisons on 9 May. A total of 38 prisoners have been recaptured so far. The escapes appear to be opportunistic rather than planned, caused mainly by the negligence of prison staff, the lack of security equipment and poor management. UNOCI assisted the Government in exploring ways to address this challenge, including the development of a protocol to govern coordination among Ivorian security agencies providing perimeter security at prisons.

11. Explosive remnants of war continued to pose a threat to civilians. UNOCI assisted the Government in addressing the threat posed by unsecured weapons and ammunition. Since July 2011 it has conducted assessments of 56 ammunition storage facilities and armouries across the country and refurbished 16. Efforts are under way to refurbish and secure the remaining ammunition storage areas in line with international standards. UNOCI also assisted in destroying some 6,000 items of unsafe and expired heavy ammunition, and provided specialized training to national security and law enforcement agencies, including on clearing explosive remnants of war and stockpile management.

12. As requested by the Security Council, UNOCI and the United Nations country team revised the protection of civilians strategy. It is a three-tiered approach based on (a) protection through the political process, (b) establishing a protective environment and (c) protection from physical violence. It outlines concrete action in response to physical violence faced by civilians, including violence by national security forces and non-State armed groups, criminal violence and politically motivated violence.

III. Political developments

13. President Alassane Ouattara made further efforts to promote stability and reconciliation during the reporting period. On 6 April, he established an interministerial working group tasked with developing a national framework for security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. From 21 to 23 April, the President paid his first visit to western Côte d'Ivoire, which had been most affected by the violent post-elections crisis. In public speeches, he stressed the need for forgiveness and reconciliation while calling on Ivorians who remained in exile to return to the country. On 9 and 23 May, he appointed the commander of the gendarmerie under former President Gbagbo and the Chief of Staff of the former Forces de défense et de sécurité (FDS) as ambassadors to Senegal and Gabon, respectively. Meanwhile, on 22 May, President Ouattara dismissed the Minister of African Integration over alleged corruption.

14. The inauguration of Côte d'Ivoire's democratically elected National Assembly took place on 25 April in Yamoussoukro with the opening of the first ordinary session on the same day. In his inaugural address, the President of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, emphasized the commitment of the Assembly to becoming a strong and independent institution that would contribute to national reconciliation and provide effective oversight of the Government on behalf of the Ivorian people. Parliamentary groups were established, with President Ouattara's Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) and former President Henri Konan Bédié's Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) constituting the two main groups. They were followed by three smaller groups, the Union pour la paix en Côte d'Ivoire (UPCI) and two groups without official political party affiliation called Dialogue and Espérance.

15. In an effort to promote a more inclusive political process, my Special Representative, Bert Koenders, initiated a series of separate meetings with the Government and political opposition parties to facilitate dialogue between them. At the invitation of the Government, representatives of the former ruling party, the Front populaire ivorien (FPI), and other non-parliamentary opposition parties participated in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio on 27 and 28 April. A subsequent communiqué, which was signed by all participating entities except FPI, announced the establishment of a follow-up mechanism, the framework for ongoing dialogue (*cadre de dialogue permanent*), to continue dialogue through quarterly meetings. The first meeting of the framework for ongoing dialogue was held on 21 June without FPI representation.

16. During a party convention on 29 April, however, FPI stated that it would only participate in national reconciliation if its demands were met, including the release of former President Gbagbo and his associates from detention, improved security conditions and even-handed justice, a stance that was reiterated during an FPI meeting in Abidjan on 26 May. On 5 June, the Prime Minister received a delegation of FPI at its request and agreement was reached to convene a meeting in July to discuss issues of concern.

17. Meanwhile, amid persisting concerns over possible attempts against State security, the Minister of the Interior announced on State television on 12 June that the authorities had prevented a plot to overthrow the Government organized by

exiled military officers and a former minister under President Gbagbo who had been extradited from Togo to Côte d'Ivoire on 6 June.

18. In a letter to me dated 25 May, the Prime Minister requested the United Nations, including UNOCI, to provide assistance for the local elections to be held later this year. An electoral needs assessment mission is currently examining the level of support the United Nations could provide. Although divergent views persist among political opposition parties on their participation in these elections, some parties from the ruling coalition have begun preparations. On 2 June, former President Bédié chaired a meeting of the Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire in Abidjan, attended by some 800 members, to reflect on the party's future and its strategy for the local elections. Following the repeat legislative elections on 26 February, the results of the elections in two electoral districts remain outstanding in the light of irregularities; an investigation by the Government has been concluded. Meanwhile, the Mouvement des forces d'avenir called on 5 June for a review of electoral boundaries, arguing that the current boundary delimitation favours the ruling party.

19. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, visited Côte d'Ivoire from 15 to 18 April to assess the situation on the ground and meet with President Ouattara, representatives of his Government and other national and international stakeholders. On 14 June, he attended on my behalf the memorial service held in Abidjan for the seven fallen peacekeepers.

Regional developments

20. Since his election as the Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on 17 February, President Ouattara has played an active role in responding to the crises in Mali and Guinea-Bissau following unconstitutional changes of government in those countries on 22 March and 12 April, respectively.

21. Measures were also taken during the period under review to respond to subregional threats. During a meeting in Abidjan on 13 March, the Mano River Union adopted a peace and security operational plan to address transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in West Africa, providing for the establishment of joint border patrols, enhanced information sharing and joint training. A follow-up meeting took place in Toulepleu on 13 and 14 April to discuss the establishment of a joint border security and confidence-building unit between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. A total of five units are expected to be established by the Mano River Union, covering the borders between Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea; Guinea and Liberia; Liberia and Sierra Leone; and Guinea and Sierra Leone. Meanwhile, at its summit meeting held in Conakry on 15 June, the Mano River Union discussed cross-border issues between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, among other topics. The summit was preceded by a ministerial-level meeting on 14 June.

22. UNOCI continued to support efforts to address subregional threats. It contributed to the development of a subregional strategy by the Mano River Union Secretariat, in collaboration with ECOWAS, to address the cross-border movements of armed elements and weapons as well as illicit trafficking, which is being coordinated by the United Nations Office for West Africa.

23. The period under review also witnessed enhanced cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to address common border security challenges. On 2 May, during a high-level meeting in Abidjan, the two Governments decided to revive the Ivorian-Liberian Joint Commission of Cooperation. The matter was further discussed at a meeting on 8 and 9 May between the Minister of Defence of Liberia and the Chief of Defence Staff of FRCI, with UNOCI and UNMIL participation. On 2 June, a meeting was held at the crossing point in Toe Town, Liberia, bringing together the authorities and civil society representatives of the two countries, as well as UNOCI and UNMIL, to discuss joint activities. During the quadripartite meeting on 13 June in Abidjan, as outlined in paragraph 5 above, Ivorian and Liberian authorities agreed on the need to further reinforce cooperation.

IV. Reform of security and rule of law institutions

24. Important steps were taken after the legislative elections in December 2011 to initiate the reform of the security sector. As outlined in my previous report, President Ouattara has taken the security sector reform portfolio under his authority and has tasked the working group referred to in paragraph 13 above to define a road map for security sector reform as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and to coordinate assistance provided by bilateral partners. The group was given 90 days, until 31 July, to prepare a national security sector reform strategy, a threat assessment and action plans. The working group is composed of a steering committee and a scientific committee to address more technical issues, and has six sub-working groups on national security; democratic control; post-crisis reconstruction; rule of law and international relations; economic governance; and the social and human dimension. UNOCI is supporting these groups with expert advice and technical assistance. UNOCI also continues to provide support to the security sector reform process through its senior adviser co-located with the Government.

Police

25. On 28 March, the Minister of the Interior established a working group to launch the reform of the national police. The working group has a steering committee chaired by the Minister of the Interior and includes senior officials of the Ministry and the national police, as well as representatives of the international community, including UNOCI. The steering committee meets on a weekly basis to discuss the reform in the light of the audits undertaken in 2011 by UNOCI and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as France, the experiences of other African countries and the national development plan for 2012-2015. A technical secretariat has been tasked to develop within two months a strategy document on the national police, which will be submitted for approval to the Working Group under the Presidency, referred to in paragraph 13 above.

Justice and corrections

26. While progress has been made in reopening justice and corrections institutions and redeploying magistrates and judicial police, challenges remain in administering

criminal justice owing to an insufficient number of prisons and the poor functioning of the judicial police. Although the military tribunal in Abidjan began hearing cases when it reopened on 1 March, court proceedings are hampered by the insufficient capacity of its personnel. Long-term structural reform will be necessary to ensure that the courts can operate in an independent, impartial manner and in accordance with international standards. UNOCI continued to closely monitor the functioning of courts and provided mentoring to judicial staff.

27. The adoption of a national justice sector strategy on 19 April, which forms the basis for interventions in the justice and prison sectors by the Government, the United Nations and other partners from 2012 to 2015, represented a significant achievement in the judicial reform process. UNOCI, together with the European Union, worked closely with the Ministry of Justice and other relevant stakeholders in developing this strategy. An action plan to implement the strategy, which would also serve as a road map for international partners supporting the justice reform process, is under development by the Ministry of Justice with UNOCI support.

28. Further to the multi-year joint United Nations justice support programme, UNOCI, together with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development, secured funding to establish clinics in Bondoukou, Bouaké, Guiglo, Korhogo, Man and San Pedro to offer legal advice and representation to local communities with a focus on women and children.

29. On 19 April, the Ministry of Justice approved the national prison administration reform programme, which forms part of the national justice sector strategy. National prison authorities made progress in re-establishing prison facilities, developing prisoner databases and building the capacity of national prison staff with UNOCI support. UNOCI, together with the European Union, has developed partnerships between national and European schools for magistrates, court clerks, corrections officers and prison youth workers to ensure long-term capacity-building in these areas.

V. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

30. In preparation for a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for former combatants, UNOCI, at the request of FRCI, started in April to rehabilitate nine of the 20 disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sites, with a capacity of some 500 persons each, in Abengourou, Abidjan, Bouaké, Bouna, Guiglo, Man, Korhogo, San Pedro and Séguéla. They will be used for the disarmament and demobilization of some 40,000 elements associated with FRCI out of an estimated caseload of 60,000 to 100,000 individuals. UNOCI had preliminary discussions with the Government on the possible co-management of these sites, including with respect to disarmament, registration and profiling of ex-combatants; securing and storage of arms and explosives; HIV/AIDS screening and sensitization; and civic training. UNOCI will provide basic reinsertion kits for an initial caseload of some 15,000 former combatants.

31. The Disarmament and Demobilization Cell in the Office of the FRCI Chief of Defence Staff developed standard operating procedures on disarmament and demobilization, while the Ministry of Ex-Combatants and Victims of War completed the first version of a procedure manual for reinsertion and reintegration, both with

UNOCI support. The sub-working group on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as part of the working group on security sector reform referred to in paragraph 13 above, met on a regular basis with UNOCI, which provided technical, budgetary and financial advice in support of the development of a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

32. Since July 2011, the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons has conducted 36 ad hoc weapon collection operations across the country with UNOCI support, recovering 1,163 weapons and 225,154 rounds of ammunition from 1,351 combatants. UNOCI held meetings with local authorities, community representatives and journalists in Abidjan, Bouaké, Duékoué and San Pedro to sensitize them on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration issues. UNOCI also organized a workshop for representatives of the Government and the international community on international standards and best practices on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and how to apply them in Côte d'Ivoire.

VI. Restoration of State authority

33. Progress was made in restoring State authority throughout the country. The corps préfectoral, which represents the Government outside Abidjan, is increasingly effective. It receives support from UNOCI, including the provision of advice and capacity-building activities. Six prefectures and 14 sub-prefectures in the west were rehabilitated with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, which had allocated $3 million under its Immediate Response Facility in support of the re-establishment of security, State authority and social cohesion. Customs offices were reopened in the north, with UNOCI undertaking capacity-building activities for new recruits in the customs service.

34. Local security committees — tasked to ensure and coordinate security at the local level — have been established in most of the departments, although their effectiveness varies depending on available resources. They are chaired by the prefects and comprise representatives of the security and law enforcement agencies, as well as other representatives of the local administration, including customs officials.

35. Local early warning and sensitization committees comprised of local authorities, political parties and civil society representatives, including traditional leaders, have been created in 85 of the 95 departments and 111 of the 371 sub-prefectures. UNOCI supported these committees through the organization of workshops on conflict resolution mechanisms and intercommunity dialogue.

VII. Human rights and transitional justice

36. The human rights situation remained of concern. Incidents recorded by UNOCI mainly involved cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, illegal occupation of property, extortion and racketeering, sexual- and gender-based violence and violations of the right to physical integrity, acts of ill-treatment and torture. Elements of FRCI and dozos (traditional hunters) were also involved in cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, sexual violence and rape. UNOCI

documented major human rights violations and recurrent instances of violent confrontations between so-called native and non-native communities, farmers and cattle-breeders, and elements of FRCI and local populations; and investigated violent attacks on villages in the border area between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia by armed individuals believed to be former militia.

37. Following his two visits to Côte d'Ivoire, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire submitted his report (A/HRC/19/72) to the Human Rights Council on 21 March. The report stressed that most human rights violations resulted less from the State's complicity than from its failure to prevent them, especially owing to the slow progress in reforming the security sector and restoring State authority throughout the country.

38. Since July 2011, 106 persons suspected of threatening State security, territorial integrity or recruiting youths to destabilize the regime have been arrested. At least 62 arrests were made in connection with the official visit of President Ouattara to western Côte d'Ivoire, although the majority were subsequently released without charges. On 29 March, one of the lawyers of Simone Gbagbo was arrested by Ivorian authorities and subsequently charged with threatening State authority, plotting against State authority and threatening the integrity of national territory, and transferred to the main Abidjan prison on 17 April.

39. UNOCI continued to assess the conditions of detention of civilian and military elements arrested in connection with the post-elections crisis who remain in detention in facilities in Boundiali, Katiola, Korhogo and Odienné. Some of the detainees raised concerns about lengthy judicial proceedings and their cohabitation with common-law detainees, which they considered might constitute a threat to their own safety and security.

40. The Mission worked closely with national counterparts to systematically monitor human rights violations and conduct awareness-raising and capacity-building at the community level with the aim of enhancing prevention and promoting a culture of peace and respect for human rights. During the reporting period, UNOCI provided 15 training courses on human rights principles and investigation techniques to representatives of civil society. National non-governmental organizations, local authorities and law enforcement authorities were also sensitized on human rights norms and principles.

Sexual violence

41. Since July 2011, 104 cases of rape have been documented across the country. In some instances, alleged rapists were released owing to the inability of victims to provide medical certificates, which were often not affordable for their families. The majority of these incidents were perpetrated by unidentified armed men during attacks on public transport, intercommunity confrontations or armed robberies. It is likely that a significant number of rapes were not reported for fear of reprisal or lack of confidence in the judicial system.

Child protection

42. Since January 2012, the United Nations-led task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations committed against children in a situation of armed conflict has documented a number of violations committed against children, including maiming and 34 cases of rape and sexual violence, of which seven were perpetrated by FRCI elements. Two children were also injured by unexploded ordnance in two separate incidents in March. The United Nations Children's Fund and UNOCI trained over 170 FRCI members in child rights and child protection.

Transitional justice

43. National and international prosecutions of serious crimes committed during the post-elections crisis continued. The Government extended the mandate of the National Commission of Inquiry until mid-August. The Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court visited Côte d'Ivoire on 3 and 4 April, while the Prosecutor was in Abidjan from 1 to 2 June. The hearing by the International Criminal Court to confirm the charges against former President Gbagbo, initially scheduled for 18 June, was postponed to 13 August in order to provide his defence with sufficient time to prepare. A former minister under the previous regime, against whom an international arrest warrant had been issued in June 2011, was arrested on 6 June in Lomé, Togo, and extradited to Côte d'Ivoire on the same day on charges of subversive actions to destabilize the Government in Abidjan.

44. UNOCI supported the activities of the International Criminal Court in Côte d'Ivoire in accordance with its mandate under the memorandum of understanding concluded with the Prosecutor of the Court on 23 January.

45. UNOCI continued to support the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for transitional justice. The High Commissioner for Human Rights deployed two technical missions to Côte d'Ivoire in November 2011 and April 2012 to assist the Commission in the planning and design of national consultations on the reconciliation process. The Commission, supported by UNOCI, organized a three-day seminar on transitional justice in Abidjan for representatives of national non-governmental organizations. Since July 2011, the Peacebuilding Fund has allocated over $1 million for the work of the Commission.

Media

46. The Ivorian media played a more positive role in the political process, although many private newspapers continued to use inflammatory language that could undermine the reconciliation process. Since July 2011, the National Press Council has imposed sanctions on private newspapers in more than 100 cases as a result of violations, including the suspension on 15 May of two opposition newspapers, *Notre Voie* and *Bol'kôch*, both affiliated with FPI. UNOCI undertook activities to build the capacity of the Ivorian media to strengthen their professional ethics and enhance responsibility in the coverage of political developments. UNOCI continued to monitor the Ivorian media while its radio station, ONUCI-FM,

remained a critical tool for the Mission to promote peace and national reconciliation.

VIII. Humanitarian and economic situation

47. Although the majority of people displaced by the post-elections crisis have returned to their places of origin over the past year, some 86,000 remain displaced, with the majority living in host communities in the western part of the country. The two sites for internally displaced persons in Nahibly near Duékoué and in San Pedro host some 4,671 and 391 people, respectively. Approximately 58,200 Ivorian refugees remain in Liberia and about 24,140 in other countries in the subregion. The sustainable return of displaced persons remains a challenge owing to prevailing insecurity, exacerbated by the recent security incidents, tensions between communities, mainly over access to land and ownership, and lack of access to basic social services. In addition, poor road conditions have constrained humanitarian access. UNOCI worked closely with humanitarian actors to facilitate the return of displaced persons, including through the provision of security while refugees returned from Liberia to western Côte d'Ivoire. The United Nations also rehabilitated the road from Toulepleu to Zouan-Hounien to improve humanitarian access and support economic recovery in the west.

48. Humanitarian actors continued to provide assistance and protection to displaced persons, with a focus on contributing to the re-establishment of livelihoods and community services such as health, education, water and sanitation. Humanitarian assistance to refugees throughout the subregion, including to encourage their return, remains critical. The resources required to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs for 2012 are estimated at $173 million. As at mid-June, only 25 per cent of the funding had been secured, leaving critical gaps in life-saving and recovery-oriented programming.

49. On 11 May, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), having completed the first review of Côte d'Ivoire's economic performance under the programme supported by an Extended Credit Facility arrangement, disbursed an amount of $100 million, bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to $225 million. During the period under review, the World Bank visited Côte d'Ivoire to take stock of progress made since the end of the post-elections crisis. Further advances in the implementation of structural reforms were made and Côte d'Ivoire is expected to achieve debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC) by the end of June.

IX. Safety and security of personnel

50. The killing of the seven peacekeepers highlighted the risk of direct attacks on UNOCI personnel. The high incidence of criminality, and of armed violence involving criminals and former combatants, particularly in western Côte d'Ivoire, remains of concern for the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

X. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Military component

51. The strength of the military component of UNOCI as at 22 June was 9,585 military personnel, including 9,297 troops, 192 military observers and 96 staff officers, against an authorized ceiling of 9,792 personnel.

52. In the light of the security risks in western Côte d'Ivoire following the post-elections crisis, UNOCI stepped up its efforts in the border area between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Additional military personnel were deployed to Tabou, Taï and Toulepleu along the border with Liberia to enhance the protection of civilians and increase the Mission's responsiveness to security incidents. UNOCI also reinforced its presence in the area following the 8 June incident as described in paragraph 3 above. The Mission is rehabilitating the principal road from Taï to Zriglo and between Taï and Guiglo to facilitate rapid interventions and humanitarian access.

53. In keeping with a joint UNOCI/UNMIL concept of operations to support the authorities on both sides to address border security challenges, UNOCI and UNMIL undertook coordinated patrols, followed by information exchange meetings at border crossing points with the participation of relevant Ivorian and Liberian authorities, and enhanced the exchange of information and analysis. Aerial reconnaissance was also conducted on a regular basis by both Missions. UNMIL and UNOCI have agreed on confidence-building activities in the border areas to complement these efforts.

54. UNOCI increased its deployment in the north and the east to support the Government in restoring its authority in those areas and maintaining stability and law and order, particularly along the main road from Katiola to Yamoussoukro where an increase in violent crime had been reported. Following the onset of the crisis in Mali, UNOCI increased its border monitoring activities along the Ivorian border with Mali, including with air patrols. UNOCI intensified patrols along the border with Ghana in the east where many Ivorians, including former combatants and representatives of the former regime, had sought refuge during and after the post-elections crisis. UNOCI also undertook temporary reinforcements in specific areas in response to security incidents in order to protect civilians and prevent situations from escalating.

55. In my previous report, I recommended a reduction of the authorized military strength of UNOCI by the equivalent of one battalion in Abidjan. Recent events have not compromised the underlying rationale for this reduction, which is based on an assessment of the security situation and the effectiveness of the national security agencies in Abidjan. Meanwhile, UNOCI continued consultations with the Government to review the protection arrangements for Government members and key political stakeholders, as well as non-United Nations installations, with a view to adjusting the resources required for these tasks.

56. The recent events in western Côte d'Ivoire have also confirmed the recommendation in my previous report to transfer the three armed helicopters currently deployed in UNMIL to UNOCI to deter spoilers from significant military action and to respond to threats to the population, especially in the border areas.

Though they will be based in Côte d'Ivoire, the armed helicopters will still be available for use in Liberia under a specific intermission cooperation arrangement. Until this recommendation has been authorized, I would recall the approval of the Security Council, as conveyed by the President of the Council to me on 27 September 2011 (see S/2011/594), to use the three armed helicopters, while still based in Liberia, in the border areas in both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and also in western Côte d'Ivoire following the Liberian election period. Cooperation arrangements between UNOCI and UNMIL, as well as between the United Nations country teams in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, will be further strengthened to enhance the United Nations response on both sides of the border, including through cross-border activities.

57. The strength of the French forces stands at 450 troops and is focused on supporting the Government in security sector reform. By its resolution 2000 (2011), the Security Council had extended until 31 July 2012 its authorization for the Licorne force to provide support to UNOCI, within the limits of the force's deployment and capabilities. The support from the Licorne force to UNOCI remains necessary.

Police component

58. The current strength of the police component of UNOCI, as at 22 June, is 1,366 personnel, comprised of six formed police units with 999 personnel and 367 individual police officers, against an authorized ceiling of 1,555 personnel. Of these personnel, 533 (339 formed police unit personnel and 194 individual police officers) are deployed in Abidjan, 473 (360 formed police unit personnel and 113 individual police officers) in the west and 360 (300 formed police unit personnel and 60 individual police officers) in the east. Formed police units are deployed in Abidjan, Bouaké, Daloa, Guiglo and Yamoussoukro. To date, 39 police advisers have been deployed under the terms of resolution 2000 (2011), by which the Council authorized an increase of the individual police personnel by 205 advisers with expert skills in specialized areas, to be accommodated through appropriate adjustments to the military and police strength of the Mission and within its overall authorized strength.

59. UNOCI provided support to the national police and gendarmerie through co-location and mentoring programmes, the rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment and the redeployment of law enforcement personnel. UNOCI provided training to the national police and gendarmerie in public security; crowd control and management; human rights; information collection and technology; investigation; forensics; combating sexual- and gender-based violence; and close protection. UNOCI also supported the strengthening of operational capacities through vetting and training of the unit established to fight corruption and racketeering within the security forces. UNOCI participated in rehabilitation projects financed by the World Bank, the European Union and Germany.

Civilian component

60. UNOCI, in close coordination with the United Nations country team, strengthened the presence of its civilian personnel in field offices in western and

northern Côte d'Ivoire in order to increase the Mission's effectiveness in implementing its mandate at the local level. UNOCI opened offices in Tabou, Toulepleu and Taï, while reinforcing the office in Guiglo. Six additional offices will be opened in Aboisso, Agboville, Bangolo, Danane, Tabou and Zouan. This will allow UNOCI to work more closely with local authorities to enhance their effectiveness and promote trust between the local authorities and the population of Côte d'Ivoire.

XI. Financial aspects

61. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/242 B of 21 June 2012, appropriated $575 million for the maintenance of UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOCI beyond 31 July 2012, the cost of maintaining the Operation until 30 June 2013 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly. As at 22 June 2012, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNOCI amounted to $78.2 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,341.9 million. Reimbursement to contributing Governments for troop and formed police costs, and for contingent-owned equipment, has been made for the period up to 31 May 2012 and 30 June 2011, respectively.

XII. Observations

62. I am deeply saddened by the killing of seven United Nations peacekeepers on 8 June in western Côte d'Ivoire along the border with Liberia. I condemned this attack in the strongest possible terms. I reiterate that intentionally directing such attacks against United Nations peacekeepers constitutes a war crime under international law. I have called upon the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to do its utmost to identify the perpetrators and hold the individuals responsible for the attack accountable. I welcome the immediate steps taken by the Government, in coordination with the Government of Liberia, to investigate this attack.

63. I am concerned about the continued instability and the general deterioration of the situation in western Côte d'Ivoire and along the border with Liberia since the Ivorian post-elections crisis. The continuing insecurity in the area and the tense relationship between different security agencies and the population, coupled with violent attacks on border villages leading to death, injury, destruction and displacement, amid alarming reports of rearming and recruitment of former Ivorian and Liberian combatants, are worrisome. I would recall that in my previous report on UNOCI of 29 March 2012 (S/2012/186), I expressed particular concern about the significant risks and threats to the stability of Côte d'Ivoire and the safety and security of its people, emanating from the large number of weapons in circulation, cross-border movements of former combatants and the intentions of persons affiliated with the former regime. These remain significant threats not only to the people living in the area, but also to the stability of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and the broader region of West Africa.

64. The protection of civilians, promoting national reconciliation and ensuring security are the responsibilities of the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. I

call upon the two Governments to step up their efforts to improve the security situation along their borders and ensure the protection of their people. I note the initiatives that have been taken to reinforce cooperation and address the situation in light of the recent attacks. Measures must be taken to identify spoilers and hold the perpetrators of violence accountable.

65. UNOCI and UNMIL, and the respective United Nations country teams, will continue to support the Governments in exercising their national responsibilities to this end, while further enhancing their activities and cooperation on the basis of their respective mandates. The threats posed by the presence of armed elements and their cross-border movements as well as illicit trafficking and organized crime go beyond Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. We need the active engagement of the subregion to address these threats, and I reiterate my call for the development of a subregional strategy in this regard. I welcome the initiatives by West African leaders, including through ECOWAS and the Mano River Union. The United Nations presence in West Africa, and the United Nations Office for West Africa specifically, stand ready to actively support initiatives by ECOWAS and the Mano River Union. I commend President Ouattara for his leadership as Chair of the ECOWAS Authority and for his efforts in responding to crises in the subregion.

66. Improving the security situation in the border areas must move beyond these measures. Effective security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in both countries are critical in order to underpin stabilization efforts, which must address the drivers of conflict and tackle underlying issues of land tenure and identity issues. In Côte d'Ivoire, there is an urgent need to tackle the root causes of the conflict and promote reconciliation through concrete measures at the national level, while prioritizing the strengthening of the rule of law and the restoration of State authority in western Côte d'Ivoire.

67. Notwithstanding my serious concerns about the security situation in western Côte d'Ivoire and the area surrounding the border with Liberia, I am encouraged by the overall progress that the country has made. The additional steps that the Government has undertaken towards stability, reconciliation and economic recovery illustrate the commitment of the President and his Government to move towards a better future for the country and its people. President Ouattara's first visit to the western part of the country, which was most affected by the recent crisis and continues to be subject to violence, sent an important signal of peace and reconciliation.

68. I also welcome the inauguration of the elected National Assembly, which marks an important step in the process of democratization in Côte d'Ivoire by providing effective oversight of the Government on behalf of the Ivorian people. The Government has requested the assistance of the United Nations for the holding of the upcoming local elections. The successful organization of these elections will depend on the timing, inclusiveness, security and reform of the electoral and administrative bodies concerned. The National Assembly also has a particular role to play by seeking broad national consensus on how to address identity and land tenure issues and prioritizing the necessary legislation.

69. Recent events highlight that Côte d'Ivoire remains deeply divided. The Government's initiative to engage in dialogue with the political opposition is a positive step, and I call upon all concerned to engage in this dialogue in a constructive manner. I urge the Government to continue working towards genuine

political dialogue and reconciliation at all levels and ensuring political space for the opposition. I call upon the opposition parties to play the role of a constructive opposition and contribute towards building a better future for Côte d'Ivoire. My Special Representative stands ready to use his good offices role to facilitate dialogue between all stakeholders.

70. Progress in security sector reform is critical to achieving lasting peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. I note President Ouattara's initiatives to directly oversee security sector reform, and urge the Government to expedite the development of a national framework to guide this crucial process. A comprehensive security sector reform plan should promote mutual trust and cohesion within and between the security agencies. It should also strengthen relations between the security and law enforcement agencies and the population they are mandated to protect. I remain concerned about reports of individuals within or associated with such agencies committing human rights violations and engaging in illicit behaviour. I urge the authorities to do more to prevent such abuses and to bring the perpetrators to justice. In this regard, professional and independent security agencies and strong and professional police and gendarmerie are essential to ensure the safety and security of the population. I urge the Government to take further steps to increase confidence within and between the army, the gendarmerie and the police.

71. The recurrent security incidents perpetrated by armed elements as well as the recent spike in attacks by armed individuals and groups and the reports of recruitment and rearming of former combatants underscore the pressing need for concrete steps towards the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. I urge the Government to expedite the development of a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme with clear and strict eligibility criteria and to find solutions for the sustained social and economic integration of former combatants. The situation needs to be addressed from a subregional perspective and in the first instance I would encourage the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to undertake measures to address the resurgence of such threats.

72. The human rights situation requires increased attention and action from national stakeholders. Impunity undermines any effort to instil a culture of respect for human rights. I urge the Ivorian authorities to ensure that, irrespective of their status or political affiliation, all perpetrators are brought to justice and that all detainees receive clarity about their status.

73. UNOCI continues to play an important role in supporting the Government's efforts to stabilize the security situation and protect civilians. In my special report of 29 March 2012 (S/2012/186), I recommended that the Mission's authorized military strength be reduced by the equivalent of one battalion, thus bringing the total authorized strength to 8,837, comprising 8,645 troops and staff officers and 192 military observers, while also maintaining the current authorized police strength of 1,555 personnel, comprising 1,000 formed police unit personnel and 555 individual police officers. Recent events have not compromised the underlying rationale for this recommended reduction, based upon an assessment of the overall security situation and the effectiveness of the national security forces in Abidjan, although the situation will be kept under close review. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNOCI at an overall authorized strength of

10,392 for a period of one year, until 31 July 2013, with a review of the situation by 31 March 2013.

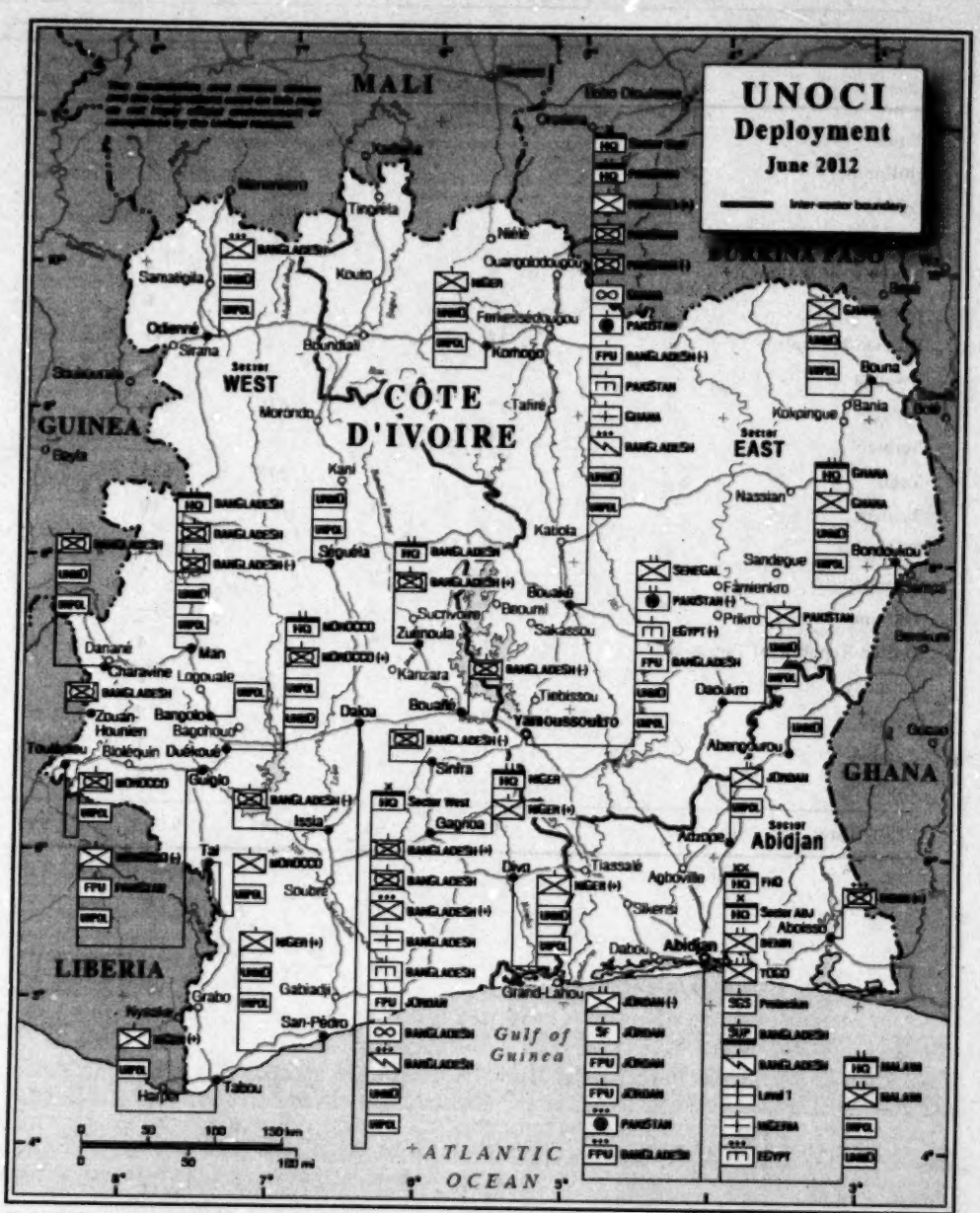
74. I would like to thank my Special Representative, Bert Koenders, and all the women and men of UNOCI and the United Nations country team for their determination and dedication, particularly over the past difficult months. Their service, often under difficult conditions, has been instrumental in helping to stabilize the security situation and consolidate the gains made so far. My appreciation also goes to the countries contributing troops and police to UNOCI and to the donor countries, regional and multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations that have continued to provide invaluable support to Côte d'Ivoire. I would also like to pay tribute to the fallen peacekeepers from Niger and to extend my deepest sympathy to the Government of Niger and the families of the deceased. The loss of their lives is a stark and tragic reminder of the very high price that peacekeepers sometimes pay in their efforts to bring peace to countries emerging from conflict.

Annex

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: military and police strength as at 21 June

	Military component				Police component	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Police*
Argentina	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bangladesh	12	8	2 159	2 179	360	1
Benin	8	8	420	436	—	57
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3	—	—	3	—	—
Brazil	4	3	—	7	—	—
Burundi	—	—	—	—	—	39
Cameroon	—	—	—	—	—	12
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	9
Central African Republic	—	—	—	—	—	11
Chad	4	1	—	5	—	20
China	4	—	—	4	—	—
Djibouti	—	—	—	—	—	39
Democratic Republic of the Congo	—	—	—	—	—	27
Ecuador	2	—	—	2	—	—
Egypt	—	1	175	176	—	—
El Salvador	3	—	—	3	—	—
Ethiopia	2	—	—	2	—	—
France	—	6	—	6	—	14
Gambia	3	—	—	3	—	—
Ghana	5	7	508	520	—	6
Guatemala	5	—	—	5	—	—
Guinea	3	—	—	3	—	—
India	8	—	—	8	—	—
Ireland	2	—	—	2	—	—
Jordan	7	12	1 060	1 029	489	14
Madagascar	—	—	—	—	—	13
Malawi	3	3	857	863	—	—
Morocco	—	3	723	726	—	—
Namibia	2	—	—	2	—	—
Nepal	3	1	—	4	—	—
Niger	5	4	924	931	—	40
Nigeria	6	1	63	70	—	10
Pakistan	10	11	1 377	1 398	150	—
Paraguay	7	2	—	9	—	—

Country	Military component				Police component	
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Police
Peru	3	—	—	3	—	—
Philippines	3	3	—	6	—	—
Poland	2	—	—	2	—	—
Republic of Korea	2	—	—	2	—	—
Republic of Moldova	4	—	—	4	—	—
Romania	6	—	—	6	—	—
Russian Federation	11	—	—	11	—	—
Rwanda	—	—	—	—	—	8
Senegal	12	7	516	535	—	9
Serbia	3	—	—	3	—	—
Togo	7	8	518	533	—	3
Tunisia	7	3	—	10	—	—
Turkey	—	—	—	—	—	12
Uganda	5	2	—	7	—	—
Ukraine	—	—	—	—	—	4
United Republic of Tanzania	2	2	—	4	—	—
Uruguay	2	—	—	2	—	1
Yemen	9	—	—	9	—	15
Zambia	1	—	—	1	—	—
Zimbabwe	2	—	—	2	—	—
Total	**192**	**96**	**9 297**	**9 585**	**999**	**367**


UNOCI
Deployment
June 2012
MALI
BURKINA FASO
GUINEA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
LIBERIA
GHANA
Sector WEST
Sector EAST
Sector Abidjan
Gulf of Guinea
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Yamoussoukro
Abidjan
Bouaké
Daloa
San-Pédro
Man
Korhogo
Odienné
Séguéla
Katiola
Bondoukou
Abengourou
Grand-Lahou
Tabou
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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) covers developments from 21 November 2011 to 20 June 2012 and brings up to date, since the issuance of my report (S/2011/746) dated 30 November 2011, the record of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 2026 (2011).

2. As at 15 June, the strength of the military component stood at 858 for all ranks and the strength of the police component stood at 68 (see annex).

II. Mission of good offices

3. Since late January 2012, when another round of high-level talks was held at the Greentree Estate in New York, intensive bilateral meetings with each side have taken place focusing on property, territory and governance, and power-sharing. Despite evident commonalities in positions on property, no convergences were reached. In the area of governance and power-sharing, significant differences between the sides persisted on the issue of the election of the executive. At the end of March, my Special Adviser provided an assessment of progress in the talks and I met with him in mid-April to discuss the way forward. I concluded that there had not yet been sufficient progress on core issues to call a multilateral conference and informed both leaders of that conclusion. Both Demetris Christofias and Derviş Eroğlu indicated that they were willing to continue to strive for a solution. However, on 26 April, during a visit by my Special Adviser, the Turkish Cypriot side indicated that they would only continue with discussions on matters of substance if there was a binding time frame culminating in a multilateral conference. At the same time, the Greek Cypriot side expressed its readiness to continue discussions but rejected the notion of any binding timelines, and said it would only agree to a multilateral conference once all internal issues have been resolved. On 14 May, Mr. Christofias officially announced that he would not seek re-election to the presidency of Cyprus in 2013, citing lack of progress in the negotiations as a key factor in his decision.

4. Until the sides reach an agreement on how to proceed with the substantive negotiations, the focus will be on continuing the work of the technical committees.

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The sides have committed to reinvigorating the committees, established in 2008 during the preparatory phase of the talks with the objective of "improving the daily lives of Cypriots". The committees cover areas such as crime and criminal matters, economic and commercial matters, cultural heritage, crisis management, humanitarian matters, health and the environment. Consideration is also being given to reviving the committees on the opening of new crossings and broadcasting and to formulating proposals on additional technical committees and other possible confidence-building measures.

III. Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

5. UNFICYP aims first and foremost to prevent a recurrence of fighting and contribute to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions. Its mandate requires reconciling, as far as possible, security considerations and the maintenance of the military status quo while allowing Cypriots who live and work in the buffer zone to pursue civilian activities and enjoy full and productive lives. Such an approach, when successful, builds confidence between the communities and contributes to the overall United Nations effort in support of the peace process.

A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and the maintenance of the military status quo

6. During the reporting period, UNFICYP continued to maintain the integrity and stability of the buffer zone. The downward trend of military violations committed by the two opposing forces has continued. Cooperation between UNFICYP and the opposing forces continued to be characterized by goodwill and mutual respect that enabled a positive relationship with the respective chains of command.

7. The opposing forces did not carry out any major exercises during the reporting period. At the same time, the active daily interventions of UNFICYP through observation, reporting and liaison remained important in preventing low-level activities that might provoke reactions from either side. Such activities occurred mostly in areas around Nicosia, where the opposing forces are deployed in close proximity to each other, and are predominantly related to ill discipline. The Mission continued to engage the opposing forces with regard to military confidence-building measures, such as the unmanning and/or closing of observation posts in such areas.

8. At the same time, challenges to the authority of UNFICYP posed by civilian activities continued to persist, now accounting for the majority of incidents across the buffer zone. In particular, unauthorized farming on contested land and hunting close to the ceasefire lines of the opposing forces and United Nations patrols continued to cause tensions in the buffer zone. UNFICYP has worked closely with the authorities on both sides to resolve such issues.

9. Previously reported military positions established by both opposing forces in the Dherinia area that violate the status quo remained in place. The Turkish forces retained the checkpoint in the Louroujina pocket. They also conducted regular inspections of the liaison post at Strovilia and repeatedly overmanned the position,

in violation of the military status quo. The United Nations holds the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha.

10. Tensions related to exploration for natural resources within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus continued during the reporting period. In February, following the confirmation of significant natural gas reserves off the southern coast of the island, Cyprus launched an international tender for offshore hydrocarbon exploration, in which a number of international companies have since expressed an interest. In response, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey issued two statements, considering such actions to prejudge the rights of the Turkish Cypriot community and claiming that some of the areas to be involved in exploration overlapped with its own continental shelf. The matter has also been publicly protested by the Turkish Cypriot side.

B. Demining

11. During the reporting period, the sides continued to withhold access to the four remaining mined areas in the buffer zone for the purposes of demining, namely, one located south of Varosha under the control of the Turkish Forces and three in the Louroujina pocket under the control of the National Guard. No agreement has been reached to extend demining to areas outside the buffer zone, as called for by the Security Council. As a consequence, the mine clearance operation remained suspended.

12. On 4 April, in observance of the International Day for Mine Awareness, UNFICYP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the United Nations Mine Action Service and the European Commission, inaugurated a panel exhibit at the Home for Cooperation in the downtown Nicosia buffer zone. The event featured a UNDP-produced video clip and brochure highlighting the continued threat of mines in Cyprus and received wide media coverage on both sides of the island.

13. In late May, under the observation of UNFICYP, the National Guard started to remove anti-personnel mines from one of its mined areas in the buffer zone, with a view to complying with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. At the same time, the National Guard decided to not remove its anti-tank mines.

C. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

14. The buffer zone continued to see a steady increase in the number of civilian projects proposed by members of both communities and approved by UNFICYP, including farming, housing construction and commercial ventures, as well as "green" initiatives, such as organic farming and solar energy projects. In order to support such activities, including enabling greater access to agricultural land, UNFICYP routinely facilitated the provision of basic services and the maintenance of essential infrastructure in the buffer zone, such as roads, waterways and electricity supply. Both communities demonstrated a willingness to cooperate on such issues at the technical level.

15. UNFICYP in principle supports civilian projects in the buffer zone in line with its mandate to contribute to a return to normal conditions. During the reporting period, the Mission authorized 34 civilian projects out of 41 applications received. However, the Mission is firmly opposed to unauthorized civilian activities, including construction, which may give rise to an increase in tension in the buffer zone. The Mission has urged the relevant authorities on both sides to provide their fullest support in ensuring that individuals and organizations abide by the UNFICYP permit system and that the courts take prompt action on outstanding cases of assault on UNFICYP personnel and damage to United Nations property.

16. The unauthorized construction adjacent to the village of Pyla of a university campus was of particular concern during the reporting period. As Pyla is the only mixed village in the buffer zone, UNFICYP has long maintained efforts to build trust and confidence between the two communities, including overseeing unique security arrangements. However, the projected influx of up to 2,000 Cypriot and foreign students, which could double the current population of Pyla, has raised concerns with regard to security, and law and order. Neither side maintains a full-time police presence in Pyla, where UNFICYP is the first point of contact for both communities on law and order issues. Discussions between UNFICYP and the interested parties continue towards determining the arrangements required for the campus to be allowed to open.

17. Beyond the management of the buffer zone, UNFICYP continued to deliver weekly humanitarian assistance to 347 Greek Cypriots and 126 Maronites in the north, and to facilitate solutions for their long-term medical and health-care needs, which remain a challenge despite the Mission's continued engagement on the matter. UNFICYP continued to monitor the welfare of Turkish Cypriots in the south, including with regard to access to places of worship, such as the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque near Larnaca. There were no new developments regarding the establishment of a Turkish language primary school in Limassol. UNFICYP did not receive an answer from the Turkish Cypriot authorities on the request submitted by nine Maronite families and two Greek Cypriots for permanent residence in their traditional villages in the north.

18. UNFICYP assisted in addressing the legal and humanitarian issues in connection with the imprisonment of seven Turkish Cypriots in the south and one Maronite in the north and the temporary detentions of individuals on both sides. The Mission conducted visits to detention facilities to ascertain the conditions and welfare of the individuals serving sentences in the other community. It also facilitated visits by family members and access to legal representation and interpretation and was present during court hearings to ensure confidence in the judicial proceedings in the other community.

19. UNFICYP continued to support civil society initiatives aimed at fostering *bicommunal* cooperation. During the reporting period, the Mission facilitated 93 bicommunal events, with the participation of more than 3,000 people, in cooperation with international and local partners. Regular meetings were held between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political party leaders and representatives under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Other events included sporting gatherings, cultural festivals, educational events on water saving and environmental awareness and meetings on specific issues of concerns at the level of local community leaders. During the reporting

period, UNFICYP facilitated 11 religious and commemorative events, involving approximately 1,850 people, which were held in or required the crossing of the buffer zone.

20. UNFICYP lent its support to a variety of bicommunal projects in the buffer zone implemented by UNDP and its local partners, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development and the European Union. In March, the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, a bicommunal civil society organization whose office is located in the buffer zone between the Ledra Palace Hotel crossing points, published educational materials intended to foster a multi-perspective approach to teaching the island's history in schools in both communities. UNDP also supported the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage for the renovation of cultural heritage sites on both sides of the island. Collaboration between UNFICYP and UNDP also continued on the stabilization of the buildings at the Ledra Street/Lokmaçı crossing point.

21. During the reporting period, the role of UNFICYP police was instrumental in facilitating a number of investigations by the respective police services into criminal incidents that occurred within the buffer zone. The Joint Communications Room continued to facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation between the two sides on criminal matters, with a total of 43 requests for information and 27 responses exchanged. The sides are also discussing the establishment of a joint database on crime, which would be maintained in the Joint Communications Room.

22. The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters, facilitated by UNFICYP police, held five meetings during the reporting period. The Committee has agreed to a series of initiatives for the remainder of 2012, including a bicommunal festival aimed at sensitizing youth on both sides of the island to the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse.

23. During the period from 22 October 2011 to 14 May 2012, UNFICYP recorded over 740,000 official crossings through the buffer zone, comparable to previous periods. From December to May 2012, goods worth approximately €1,255,576 crossed from the south to the north, up some 57 per cent from the previous reporting period. Goods moving in the opposite direction amounted to €8,857,448, which remained higher than usual due to the provision of electricity to help cover shortfalls in the south.

24. The overall assessment of the functioning of the crossings has been positive. Nonetheless, during the reporting period there were a number of instances of restrictions on crossings by Turkish Cypriots and foreign tourists from the north to the south, which the Turkish Cypriot side claimed to be harming its economy, and on crossings of people in the opposite direction. However, those instances were few and did not appear to reflect a deliberate policy.

25. The Committee on Crossings, which was tasked by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders in December 2010 to reach an agreement on new crossing points, did not meet during the reporting period. Despite the engagement by UNFICYP with the sides, their positions on the locations of new crossings remained irreconcilable.

26. UNFICYP police continued to provide escorts for convoys of Turkish Cypriot civilians and humanitarian supplies through the buffer zone to Kokkina/Erenköy, as agreed by the two leaders in October 2010. While civilian traffic at the crossing

remained unaffected, there were a number of requests by the Turkish Cypriot side for formal escorts over and above the agreed frequency, to as many as six in one week, sometimes twice daily.

27. Beginning in late 2011, a group of protesters had occupied the Ledra Street/Lokmaçı crossing in downtown Nicosia. While the protest waxed and waned during the reporting period, the encampment posed a security risk and a safety and public health hazard. UNFICYP closely monitored the situation and liaised with the sides to ensure that the presence of protesters did not undermine the security situation or the smooth functioning of the crossing point. In June, the departure of the last protesters allowed the area to be restored to normality.

28. Occasional restrictions on United Nations staff members of Greek Cypriot origin seeking to undertake their duties in the north remained in place.

IV. Committee on Missing Persons

29. During the reporting period, the Committee on Missing Persons continued to carry forward its bicommunal project on the exhumation, identification and return of the remains of missing persons. As at June 2012, the Committee's bicommunal teams of archaeologists had exhumed the remains of over 850 individuals on both sides of the island. The remains of over 700 missing persons had undergone examination at the Committee's bicommunal anthropological laboratory in the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia. Following genetic analysis of some 1,500 samples, the remains of over 320 individuals have been returned to their respective families to date, including 21 during the reporting period. The Committee is committed to keeping its genetic analysis at the highest level of international best practices. For that purpose, it is in the process of finalizing a contract for DNA analysis with the genetic laboratory of the International Commission on Missing Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the reporting period, the Committee's access to military areas in the north continued to be circumscribed.

V. Financial and administrative aspects

30. As indicated in the previous report, the General Assembly, by its resolution 65/295, appropriated the amount of $56.5 million gross for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, inclusive of the voluntary contribution of one third of the net cost of the Force, equivalent to $18.0 million, from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of $6.5 million from the Government of Greece. I invite other countries and organizations to do likewise, with a view to reducing the portion of the cost of UNFICYP covered by assessed contributions.

31. The Fifth Committee, during the second part of the resumed sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, approved the budget in the amount of $54.6 million gross for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, for which the Assembly is yet to take a decision.

32. Should the Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, as recommended in paragraph 42 below, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount approved by the General Assembly.

33. As at 12 June 2012, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 8 June 2012 amounted to $15.8 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $1.36 billion.

34. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made only for the periods up to 29 February 2012 and 1 June 2010, respectively, owing to the delay in the receipt of assessed contributions.

VI. Observations

35. The continued decrease in the overall number of military violations is welcome. The opposing forces should build on that positive trend and engage with UNFICYP on military confidence-building measures. It is also essential that the authority of UNFICYP be respected by the local population and authorities. Civilian activities in the buffer zone are a natural consequence of an increased sense of overall security. Such activities, however, will only contribute to the reconciliation process if they are managed in a manner that fosters trust and cooperation. I therefore call upon the respective authorities to provide their fullest support to UNFICYP in implementing its mandate.

36. The ongoing tensions and rhetoric around Cyprus related to the exploitation of natural resources are of concern. In that context, I call upon all parties to make every effort to avoid raising tensions, which may have a negative impact on the security situation on or around the island, including in the buffer zone. It is important to ensure that any newfound wealth from natural resources, which belong to all Cypriots, will benefit both communities. Such development constitutes another strong incentive to finding a durable solution to the Cyprus problem, and it is my hope that it may engender a deeper cooperation for the benefit of all stakeholders in the region.

37. Restrictions on the movement of locally employed United Nations personnel regrettably continue. Freedom of movement for all United Nations personnel is a matter of principle for the Organization and an operational requirement for UNFICYP. I call upon the Turkish Cypriot authorities to respect that principle.

38. I remain of the view that the establishment of economic, social, cultural, sporting or similar ties and contacts will have a positive impact on the negotiations. Such contacts nurture a sentiment of trust between the communities and help address the concerns of isolation expressed by the Turkish Cypriots. Furthermore, greater economic and social parity between the sides will make an eventual reunification not only easier but also more likely. In the context of an internationally sanctioned peace process, efforts in the opposite direction can only be counterproductive.

39. The United Nations is pleased to continue its support to the critical work on behalf of the families of victims, through its support of the Committee on Missing Persons. Given the current challenges facing the Committee, I count on the support of all parties to preserve the non-political and bicommunal character of the work of the Committee and to allow it to discharge its mandate in compliance with international standards. I furthermore urge all parties, once again, to ensure that the Committee is able to meet its exhumation requirements throughout the island, by providing unrestricted access, including in military-controlled areas in the north.

40. While a partial clearance by the National Guard of one mined area in the buffer zone is under way, mine fields, both in and outside the buffer zone, remain on the island. I call upon the parties to facilitate, without delay, access to the remaining mined areas in and outside the buffer zone, in line with Security Council resolution 2026 (2011). The United Nations stands ready to assist the parties in their aspiration to achieve a mine-free Cyprus.

41. As I reported over a year ago regarding new crossings, the two sides were positively disposed to a crossing south of Apliki/Aplıç in the Lefka/Lefke area. At that time, I called upon the parties to take a pragmatic and results-oriented approach, with a view to enabling further social and economic interaction between the two communities. I am disappointed that, despite the stated readiness by the parties to open more crossings, no progress has since been achieved.

42. UNFICYP continues to play an important role on the island by maintaining the buffer zone and contributing to the calm and resolution of various issues affecting the everyday lives of both communities. It performs its activities in close collaboration with my mission of good offices, led by my Special Adviser, and other United Nations actors on the island. I recommend that the mandate of UNFICYP be extended for a period of six months, until 19 January 2013.

43. As mentioned above, a stage in the negotiation process has once again been reached where it is incumbent on the sides to agree to and proceed with a way forward for the talks. In that regard, I would encourage both sides to work closely with my Special Adviser and his team, who remain at their disposal. I furthermore continue to encourage political leaders in Cyprus to fully embrace the concept and practice of a more inclusive dialogue which ensures that civil society actors can have a meaningful role in the peace process.

44. In line with relevant Security Council resolutions, most recently resolution 2026 (2011), the Secretariat will remain engaged in contingency planning in relation to the settlement. The planning will continue to be guided by developments in the negotiations and the views of the parties on the possible role of the United Nations in that respect.

45. At the same time, I shall continually keep the operations of UNFICYP under close review, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties, and shall revert to the Council with recommendations, as appropriate, for further adjustments to the UNFICYP mandate, force levels and concept of operations as soon as warranted. As I informed the Council in my report dated 30 November 2011 (S/2011/746) regarding the broader assessment of the United Nations presence in Cyprus, internal discussions continue as to the potential scope and timing of such an exercise.

46. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to my Special Representative and Chief of Mission, Ms. Lisa M. Buttenheim, to the Force Commander, Major General Chao Liu, and to the men and women serving in UNFICYP for the efficiency and commitment with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council. I also express my gratitude to my Special Adviser, Alexander Downer, and the good offices team.

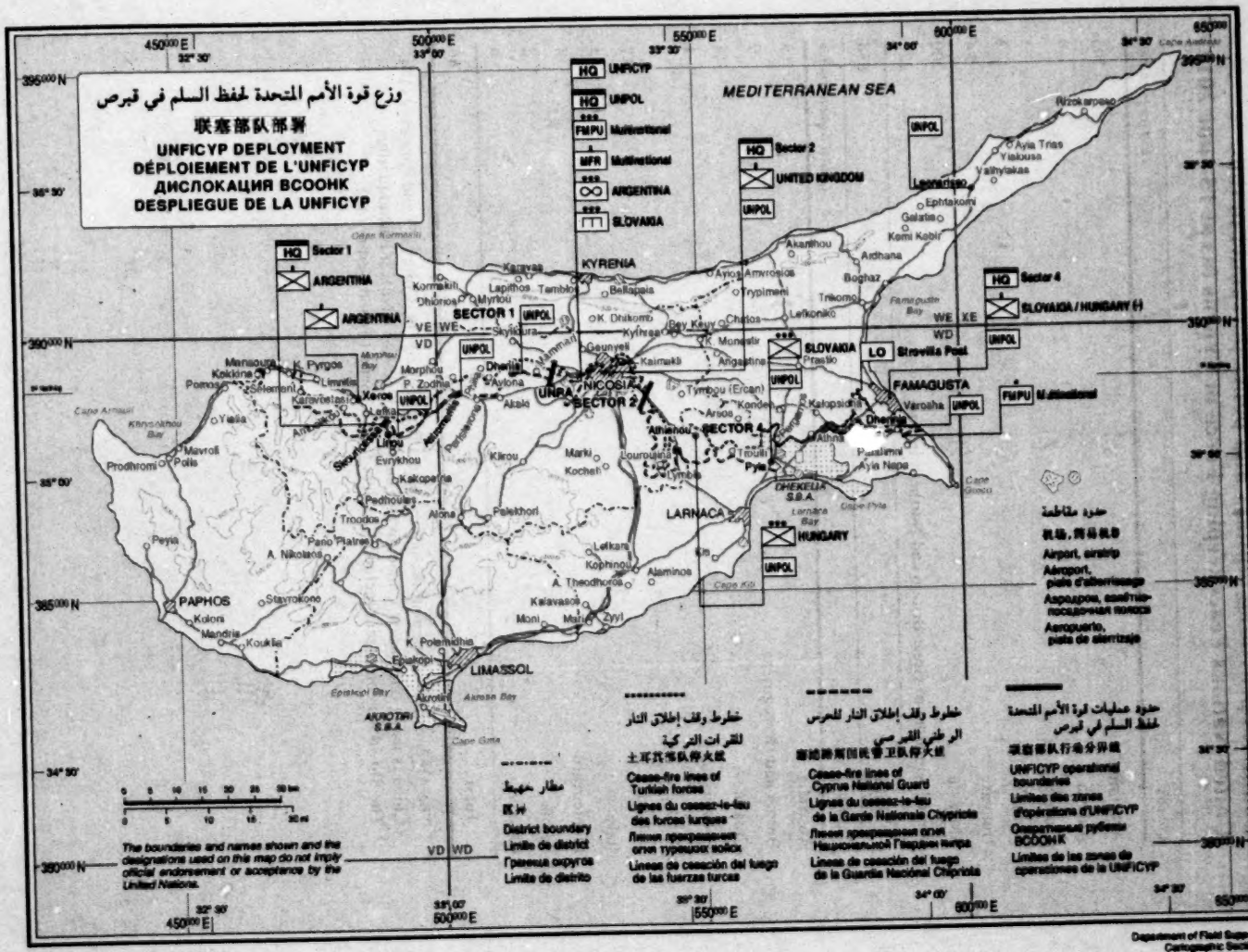
Annex

Countries providing military and police personnel to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (as at 15 June 2012)

Country	*Military personnel*
Argentina[a]	295
Austria	4
Canada	1
China[b]	2
Hungary	84
Slovakia[c]	200
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	272
Total	**858**

Country	*United Nations police*
Australia	15
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9
Croatia	4
El Salvador	1
India	6
Ireland	17
Italy	4
Montenegro	4
Serbia	2
Ukraine	6
Total	**68**

[a] The Argentinean contingent includes soldiers from Brazil (1), Chile (15) and Paraguay (14).
[b] China is using one vacant Canadian and one British post at UNFICYP headquarters.
[c] The Slovakian contingent includes soldiers from Croatia (2) and Serbia (46).



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